

# BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

EXODUS 35-40



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God wanted to be with His people, and He met with them in the tabernacle. Today when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why do we need to be saved? We are sinful and need Jesus to rescue us from sin.

**KEY PASSAGE:** There is no one holy like the Lord. 1 Samuel 2:2

**STORY POINT:** The tabernacle was built for God to be with His people.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

Today's passage highlights the wonder that a holy God would desire to dwell among His people. In the previous chapter, God instructed the Israelites to obediently abide within His covenantal love. Now, it was time to build the place where God would dwell with His people as they journeyed toward the Promised Land.

What was the significance of the people's tabernacle offerings? Why don't Christians meet with the Lord in a tabernacle today?

God's instructions were for each of the tabernacle's components to be freely given by all who were willing. He called for artisans to use their skills to construct, create, and design the tabernacle and all its furnishings. Scripture details that everyone whose heart was moved and whose spirit was prompted brought an offering to the Lord for the tent of meeting and its services, as well as for the priest's holy garments. The people offered up their finest jewelry, textiles, spices, and oils—all of which were initially provided by God Himself when the people fled Egypt. Skilled designers were even gifted the ability to teach others their craft. Together, these craftsmen lent their time and skills to the work of the tabernacle. Eventually, people brought much more than was needed, so Moses ordered them to stop! They had more than enough materials to construct a tent according to God's commands and worthy of His presence.

Today, though we gather at local churches to worship God and commune with fellow believers, it is not in physical structures where God dwells among His people. Instead, those who are in Christ receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Jesus tells us in John 16:7 that the gift of the Holy Spirit is greater than His physical presence was as He walked among His disciples! Pray for the Lord to prompt your kids to heed His call of salvation, that He would dwell within them as their Lord. May we read of the tabernacle's splendor and respond, not out of obligation, but in awe of the closeness and kindness of our Lord.



### PREPARE

#### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



### WELCOME

#### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



### LEARN

#### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



### LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

#### 30-40 MINUTES



### LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



### BONUS

#### 60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



### WELCOME

#### Find toy tools

- Big Picture Question Poster
- toy tools



### LEARN

#### Choose the king's household

- tiara
- walking staff
- large basket

#### Tell the Bible story

- "Building the Tabernacle" video (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- "Tabernacle Furnishings" printable

#### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Weave paper strips

- prepared blue construction paper, 1 per child
- red and purple construction paper strips

#### Make paper bag tabernacles

- paper lunch bags, 1 per child
- red, blue, and purple crayons

#### Give and offering

- basket
- gold and silver toy coins
- faux fur and leather
- purple, gold, and blue fabric
- toy gems and stones



### LIVE

#### Assemble the tabernacle

- "Tabernacle Key Passage Phrase" printable, 1 copy

#### Missions activity

- "Washington, DC Landmarks and Monuments" printable

#### Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Connect the Dots" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



### BONUS

#### Build a tent

- pop-up tent

#### Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

#### Look at shiny stones

- magnifying glasses
- rocks and fake gemstones

#### Braid yard

- 12-inch lengths of red, purple, blue yarn



## WELCOME Preschoolers

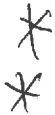
Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### FIND TOY TOOLS

Hide toy construction tools around the classroom for children to find. Invite children to find tools and bring their finds to you by the Big Picture Question Poster. Identify the tools together before reading the big picture question and answer to the children. Allow children to re-hide the tools for friends to find again.

**SAY** **55** I am so happy you came to church today. God's people built something very special for God, the tabernacle. God told them how to build the tabernacle. He gave very detailed instructions we can read in the Bible. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** Our big picture question and answer is, Why do we need to be saved? We are sinful and need Jesus to rescue us from sin. **55**



Worship songs  
\* Everywhere I go  
\* God is so good

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 SPEND TIME TOGETHER



Ask children how they spend time with people they love. If necessary, offer suggestions to get them started.

**SAY** “ Name people you love and tell us what you like to do with those people. [Allow responses.] God wanted to spend time with His people. He directed them to build the tabernacle. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** ”



### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Exodus 35–40. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

#### BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

**SAY** “ God told Moses to make a special building called a tabernacle. He told Moses to invite all of God’s people to work together to build the tabernacle.

So the people gave Moses shiny metals like gold and silver. They gave blue, purple, and red yarn. They gave animal skins and beautiful stones.

Moses asked for helpers to work on the building. God gave the helpers special skills to work with wood, cloth, and stones.

The people worked hard to make the tabernacle. They made a special box, called the ark, and covered it with gold. They made other things like a gold table, a lampstand, and a bowl. The people made special clothes for Aaron and other priests to wear.

The people made the tabernacle just how God told them to. Moses set up the tabernacle, and something amazing happened: God’s presence filled the tabernacle. Whenever God’s people traveled, they moved the tabernacle and God was with them. ”

Christ Connection: God wanted to be with His people, and He met with them in the tabernacle. Today when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Print the “Tabernacle Furnishings” printable. Show the children the pictures and talk about what the people made. Remind them God gave directions for how to make the special furnishings and how they were to be used. Talk about how much God wanted to be with His people.

**SAY** “There was a special use for each of the items in the tabernacle. God told the people how to make each item and how to use them. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** He met with them in the tabernacle. Today, when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us.”

#### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “The Wheels On the Bus”:

There is no one holy like the Lord  
Like the Lord, like the Lord  
There is no one holy like the Lord  
1 Samuel 2:2



“No one” worship song

#### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE



Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Samuel 2:2. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Learn the key passage phrase while making hammering and sawing motions.

**SAY** “God is holy. No one else is like Him. Just like how we pretended to use hammers and saws, God’s people used real tools to make the tabernacle. God loved the people, and He wanted to be with them.”

#### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for wanting to be with us.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

#### 1 WEAVE PAPER STRIPS

Prior to the session, prepare blue construction paper by cutting slits 2 inches apart from the bottom to within 1½ inches from the top. Cut purple and red construction paper into 1½ inch strips across the width of the paper. Provide a prepared sheet of blue construction paper for each child along with red and purple strips. Demonstrate how to weave the red and purple strips over and under the blue strips on the base to make a woven paper art piece. Help children as needed. Allow children to glue the ends of the strips to the blue paper to hold them in place.

**SAY** 🙌 God gave specific instructions to the people for how to make the cloth and other items for the tabernacle. He also gave the people the skill to create each piece. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** Let's weave together our paper like the people who prepared furnishings for the tabernacle. 🙌

#### 2 MAKE PAPER BAG TABERNACLES

Prior to the session, cut 3 inches off of the top of the paper bags as well as a door on one side. Give each child a paper bag and red, purple, and blue crayons. Allow the children to color the paper lunch bags. Remind children that the tabernacle was like a very big, fancy tent. The people moved from place to place, and the tabernacle had to move with them. Open the bags and set them on the table upside down so the door is on the tabletop and the bottom of the bag creates the roof.

**SAY** 🙌 Unlike a church building today, the tabernacle was moveable. When the people moved, they would take the tabernacle with them. Everything about the tabernacle was portable. All the furnishings were also moveable. God wanted to be with His people, and He met with them in the tabernacle. Today when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us. 🙌

#### 3 GIVE AN OFFERING

Place a basket within easy reach of preschoolers. Arrange an assortment of items mentioned in the text that people gave as an offering. Ideas include toy gold and silver coins, red, purple, and blue fabric, faux animal skins, faux fur, shiny stones, and fake gems. Allow children to choose items to give. Retell the story while leading children to place the items into the basket as an offering, like the people did.

**SAY** 🙌 The people gave all the materials to build the tabernacle. Moses led the people to follow all of God's instructions for building it. God loved His people and wanted to be with them. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** 🙌

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

#### 1 ASSEMBLE THE TABERNACLE

Print and cut apart the “Tabernacle Key Passage Phrase” printable to create a puzzle. Lead children to work the puzzle. Read the key passage phrase aloud when finished. Say the key passage together several times.

**SAY** “ God is holy. No one else is holy like He is. The tabernacle was a special place for God to meet with His people. There was a special area inside the tabernacle set aside just for God. ”

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and display the “Washington, DC Landmarks and Monuments” printable. Comment that many people living in the Washington, DC area work for the government. But many people also work as teachers and as doctors and nurses

**SAY** “ With so many people living in Washington, DC, many churches are needed. Amazing Grace Church is a new church in Washington, DC. The people in the church want all people to feel welcome to attend their church to hear about Jesus, help in their community, and to work together to tell people about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.] ”

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

**SAY** “ God wanted to be with His people, and He met with them in the tabernacle. Today when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.





TEACHING HOUR

## **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

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### **1 BUILD A TENT**

Build a tent together and sit inside it to hear the Bible story. Talk about the people working together to build the tabernacle as you work together with the children.

### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to Exodus 35–40. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

#### **BUILDING THE TABERNACLE**

- God’s people worked together to make a special building called a tabernacle.
- The people gave Moses gold and silver. They gave blue, purple, and red yarn. They gave animal skins and beautiful stones.
- Moses asked for helpers to work on the building. God gave the helpers special skills. The people worked hard to make the tabernacle. They made a special golden box called the ark. They made other things like a table and a bowl. They made special clothes for the priests.
- Moses set up the tabernacle, and God’s presence filled the tabernacle. Wherever they traveled, God was with His people.

### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song below to the tune of “The Wheels On the Bus”:

There is no one holy like the Lord  
Like the Lord, like the Lord  
There is no one holy like the Lord  
1 Samuel 2:2

### **4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Samuel 2:2. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Pretend to toss coins into an offering basket while saying the key passage phrase together.

### **5 PRAY**

Pray, thanking God for wanting to be with His people. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit He sends to be with us today when we follow Jesus.



## BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

### 6 PLAY A TOGETHER OR APART GAME

Tape a large square on the floor with masking tape. Gather all the children inside the square. Tell them they are together now, but when you say, “Apart” they need to all spread out around the room. Tell them they can walk, hop, or jump to get out of the square. Remind them that when you call out, “Together”, they are to return to the square again. Play several times, calling the children to be together in the square and apart outside of the square.

**SAY** “ God instructed Moses and the people to build the tabernacle so He could be with them. They met together at the tabernacle. Then, the people would pack up and move to a new place. There they would set up the tabernacle again so God could be with them. ”

### 7 LOOK AT SHINY STONES

Set out shiny, polished rocks and fake gemstones on a low table. Give children magnifying glasses and invite them to examine the stones.

**SAY** “ God instructed the people to make special clothing for the priests to wear. One of the things was a breastplate that had 12 gemstones on it. God gave directions to the craftsmen about how to make everything the tabernacle needed. The people made everything God told them to make exactly the way He told them to make it. God wanted to be with the people. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** ”

### 8 BRAID YARN

Cut 12-inch lengths of red, blue, and purple yarn. Tape one end of the yarn strands in sections to the wall or the top of the table. Lead children to braid the three colors of yarn together.

**SAY** “ God’s directions to the people about how to make each piece of the tabernacle and its furnishings were very clear. The people took the three colors of yarn and wove them to create exactly what God instructed them to make. **THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT FOR GOD TO BE WITH HIS PEOPLE.** Today, when we trust in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to always be with us. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.